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**1959/01/07**

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

January 7, 1959

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Recognition of the New Government of Cuba

In the early morning hours of January 1, 1959, President Batista of Cuba fled the country in the face of general deterioration of his position and recent military successes of the revolutionary movement led by Fidel Castro. On January 2, Castro announced the designation of Dr. Manuel URRUTIA Lleo as Provisional President of Cuba, and Dr. Urrutia arrived in Habana on January 5, where he established himself in the presidential palace.

On January 6, 1959, our Embassy at Habana received a note from the Ministry of State to the effect that a government headed by Dr. Urrutia had been constituted. This note adds that the Provisional Government has complete control of the Republic, that peaceful conditions have returned to Cuba, and that all the Republic's international commitments and agreements in force will be fulfilled.

I believe that the statements of intention of the new government have been made in good faith and that it is in our national interest to recognize the Provisional Government of Cuba without delay. The Provisional Government appears free from Communist taint and there are indications that it intends to pursue friendly relations with the United States.

I request your authorization to take the necessary steps to recognize the present Provisional Government of Cuba.

John Foster Dulles



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